

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
From: David Gray
Sent: Sat 8/22/2015 11:59:49 PM
Subject: CLOSED - AP

From: Gray, David
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 3:12 PM
To: EOC Public Information; Harrison, Melissa; Gentile, Laura
Subject: CLOSED - AP

CLOSED

From: Gray, David
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2015 3:04 PM
To: 'mbrown@ap.org'
Subject: Request

Hey Matt,

David and Nancy here are more responses.

Could you please provide more details on work to eliminate blockages? Also is there an estimate of how much water remains in the mine? What is potential for another blow out?

EPA's contractor, Environmental Restoration, LLC action and work plan released online

yesterday outlines the activities at the site. We do not have an estimate of the amount of water remaining in the mine. Yes, there is a potential for another blow out at the mine.

And regarding documents, it appears EPA was aware of potential for "a blow out of the blockages"; what precautions were taken to account for that?

EPA's Task Order Statement of Work from 6/25/14 identifies our assignment to the contractor to prepare plans to address a release at the mine. It identifies the potential and outlines the necessary steps to address it.

Should more precautions have been taken? Did EPA share that with state officials? Local officials? Were personnel on site when spill occurred aware?

The Department of Interior is conducting an independent review of the release which will determine the adequacy of the activities leading up to the incident. We are not speculating on the findings of this independent review. In addition, EPA is conducting its own internal technical examination of the incident.